

May 10, 2019

Mayor David Kogon
Town of Amherst
P.O. Box 516
Amherst NS B4H 4A1

Mayor Trish Stewart
Town of Oxford
P.O. Box 338
Oxford, NS B0M 1P0

Dear Mayor Kogon:

Please be advised that Cumberland Municipal Council is of the position that there should be no voting at a Joint Council meeting. Any move forward would be to reach consensus to take the issue and discussions back to individual Councils for further discussions and decisions.

Our reasons include respect and acceptance that Councils were elected by their respective electorate to make decisions within their own chambers, within current democratic processes and not at Joint Council meetings. A second reason is that consensus will eliminate the need to review the structure of a Joint Council vote based on factors like significant interest, population, cost sharing uniform assessment, etc.

As you recall, we went through significant discussion on the membership and voting rights for the CJSMA Board of Directors and voting and decision making at Joint Council meetings would require a similar discussion and agreement. Consensus will also eliminate the need to have discussions about which items would be excluded at Joint Council meetings, examples including amalgamation, restructuring, cost sharing on some regional services (given the proposed voting structure) and there may be more examples. Each Council may have a list of items to exclude from the agenda.

We would also have to have discussions about fewer than all 3 municipalities having discussion on a specific agenda item outside the joint Council forum. This would include discussions by the respective CAO's.

Council discussed the objectives of joint Council meetings and these included information, presentations, networking, relationship building, team building and inter Municipal cooperation. Those are all important objectives and it is our position we focus on these objectives.

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Thank you for respecting Council's position.

Yours truly,


Allison Gillis
Warden

Cc: Councillors, Municipality of Cumberland
CAO, Greg Herrett, Town of Amherst
CAO, Rachel Jones, Town of Oxford
CAO, Rennie Bugley, Municipality of Cumberland